



## Tutu arrives in Tel Aviv

**JORDAN** (E) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived Friday for a three-day visit and promises to echo his civil rights campaigning in South Africa. "I'm very happy to be here to pray with our sisters and brothers," said the black South African Nobel Peace laureate told reporters at Ben Gurion airport. "It is a great honour for me to be here to celebrate Christmas in Israel." Israeli officials described his trip as a private one but said he had drawn world attention to the two-year-old Palestinian uprising. In an interview with the Israeli daily Haaretz before his arrival, Tutu defended his criticism of Israeli policies towards the occupied territories with particular reference to the existence of the Jewish state. "I find contradictions between the way the governments of Israel and South Africa treat us," Tutu was quoted as saying. He said Israel had the right to be sovereign but those opposed to its existence but added: "I must say that I have never heard such an argument from Israel's side. If I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa. I am against violence, but I am also against repression," said Tutu. Tutu plans to meet the various leaders of Palestinian resistance during his visit.

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## Ceausescu toppled but 'hell breaks loose'

**VIEENNA** (Agencies) — Romania's hardline President Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown in a lightning popular revolution Friday but hundreds celebrating his downfall were killed when loyal troops counter-attacked, reports from Bucharest said.

Ceausescu was captured after hours on the run, the reports said. But Bucharest television said Friday night that he and his wife Elena had left Romania.

"Automatic gunfire has been heard from the direction of the presidential palace," Belgrade Television said. "According to first reports there are hundreds of dead on the sidewalks."

Eastern European news agencies reported heavy combat between pro- and anti-Ceausescu soldiers into the night, and said the fighting began at 7 a.m. (1700 GMT).

The counterattack began after rallies by hundreds of thousands of people in the streets of Bucharest and other cities to celebrate Ceausescu's ouster after 24 years of hard-line rule.

Dramatic television footage showed the presidential palace in fire, and demonstrators waving a Romanian flag in the square. An army commander was heard in a live radio broadcast barking orders for the demonstrators to leave.

"As darkness fell, forces loyal

to Ceausescu tore into the capital. Violent battles have broken out. Participants in mass meetings were fired on by machine guns. There are hundreds of dead and injured."

The television said fighting later spread towards the international airport. It said an explosion had partly wrecked the party headquarters and the building was on fire.

The power struggle climaxed a day of see-saw drama as popular pressure toppled the last hardline communist regime in a Warsaw Pact state.

Ceausescu apparently felt so secure with the dominance of his cult of personality that he travelled to Iran earlier this week during the growing protests, and held a pro-governmental Thursday that turned into a huge chorus of denunciations of his rule.

Ceausescu tried one more time to address crowds before fleeing from his palace, the Bulgarian news agency BTA reported. He was shouted down with cries of "Death, death," the agency said.

While still in Ceausescu's hands, Romanian radio reported early Friday that Defence Minister Vasile Milea had committed suicide and blamed him for the national unrest.

An unidentified general denied

## U.S. military police on Panama streets

**PANAMA** (Agencies) — More than a thousand U.S. military police were ordered into the streets of Panama City Friday to bring law and order to the chaotic capital while other U.S. troops battled loyalists of Manuel Antonio Noriega for a third day.

There were unconfirmed reports of U.S. aircraft bombing the San Miguelito suburb of Panama City and heavy fighting among loyalists and U.S. troops. In Colon, Panama's second largest city,

The military police were ordered into the streets to stop two days of unchecked looting that began soon after the American invasion early Wednesday and left the city of a million people looking as if it had been hit by a hurricane.

In Washington, the Organization of American States (OAS) Friday "deeply deplored" the U.S. invasion and called for a withdrawal of U.S. forces. The resolution was approved on a 20-1 vote with six abstentions. The United States cast the lone "no" vote.

U.S. President George Bush told Congress Friday he could not predict how long the U.S. military assault would last. The notification was required under a law called the War Powers Act, which covers the use of U.S. military forces.

In a written message to Congress, Bush accused Noriega of directing "vicious and brutal acts" against U.S. citizens and said their lives and welfare had been "increasingly at risk."

(Continued on page 3)

## Chalabi seeks 'realistic' gestures from government

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times* Staff Writer

**AMMAN** — Ahmad Chalabi, the founder and former head of Petra Bank, one of Jordan's leading commercial banks, has affirmed that he is anxious to "clear things" related to the bank but is asking that the government reverse some of the measures adopted against him as "punishments" for his return to the Kingdom after a four-month stay outside.

He also asserted that Chalabi is holding out the threat of legal action in the U.S. against the present management of Petra Bank as well as several other senior Jordanian officials.

The old-new twist in the Petra Bank affair comes at a time when sources say that a "special" committee has been set up comprising of banking officials, auditors and government representatives to conduct a fresh "professional investigation" of the issue.

According to Chalabi, who has been named officially in the Petra Bank scandal, which, according to official statements, includes violations of banking practices, embezzlement and speculation against the dimer, he is not a "fugitive from justice" and did not leave Jordan through "illegitimate channels."

"My departure from Jordan was completely legal and legitimate," insisted Chalabi, who was reported "missing" a few days after the Economic Security Committee (ESC) took over Petra Bank and ordered its merger with the Jordan Gulf Bank in the first week of August. Officials have accused the Iraqi-born banker of using "unorthodox" means to flee the country. Chalabi was also removed from an ESC-appointed panel to supervise the Petra-Jordan Gulf merger.

"I have no desire to remain

outside Jordan," Chalabi told the *Jordan Times* in a telephone interview from an undisclosed destination. "In fact, I am proud of my Jordanian background and I am anxious to return and clear things up."

But, he said, "as it is, I am unjustly accused of leaving the country through illegal means, and that itself makes it difficult for me to return."

Among what he described as what would be "realistic and goodwill gestures" on the part of the government were: a "repeal of the charge that I left illegally, a retraction of the ESC order to sequester the property of the Chalabi family and an immediate stop to the 'arbitrary' dismissal of Petra Bank staff members."

In addition, he said, "I should also receive an assurance of my personal safety." This, he indicated, "should come from the highest level," but declined to elaborate.

Chalabi, believed to be in a European capital, confirmed that "procedures are in place for a case in a United States court" against the take-over of Petra Bank International Corporation, Washington, D.C. — an affiliate but registered as a corporation in the U.S. by the ESC and the merger panel. But, he said, "(the case) could be stopped." Again, he did not elaborate, obviously leaving the door open for a compromise deal with the government.

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Nicolae Ceausescu

on the radio after Ceausescu was ousted that Miles had killed himself.

"I am sorry, I am very sorry, that my friend the war minister died. It is a lie that he committed suicide," the general said.

Ceausescu, 71, fled Bucharest by helicopter from the roof of Communist Party headquarters, according to East European news agency reports from the scene.

He continued his escape by road, changing cars twice. He was arrested — but managed to escape — in Targoviste, 75 kilometres northwest of Bucharest, where he was reportedly rearrested.

Tens of thousands of jubilant Romanians massed in the centre of Bucharest hailed the end to Ceausescu's 24 year in power.

An unidentified general denied

the process of the formation of the (PLO) delegation.

## PLO firm on publicly naming team to talks

By Lamis K. Andoni  
*Jordan Times* Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has no intention of delivering to Egypt a list of names of members of a Palestinian delegation to take part in a proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and insists on publicly naming the team, according to a senior Palestinian official.

PLO executive member Abdul-Hamid Hourani said the organisation was asked to convey the names of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo, which would have delivered them to the American government. "But the PLO will not deliver a list of names to Egypt or any other third party," said Hourani. "If there will be a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the

organisation will name the delegation publicly." Hourani, who left Amman to Cairo Thursday night to convey the PLO position to the Egyptian government, told the *Jordan Times*. The American did not expect the PLO to play a direct role in the process, and that its part would be confined in "confidentially" advising Egypt on the names.

(Continued on page 3)

*The following is an unofficial translation of the PLO's reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for an opening round of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The reply was conveyed to the U.S. government, via the Egyptian government, and the American ambassador to Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, on Dec. 1, 1989.*

*The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership, studied the replies it received on Nov. 16 and Nov. 27/1989 via the Egyptian Foreign Ministry from Mr. James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, in response to Palestinian queries about his plan which he put forward Nov. 6, 1989.*

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## GCC calls for Gulf PoW release

MUSCAT (AP) — The leaders of the six Arab states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Thursday called on Iran and Iraq to release their prisoners of war "without delay" as a concrete step toward a permanent peace treaty.

The statement was included in the communique released at the end of a 4-day annual summit.

At a press conference after the final session Oman's Information Minister Abdul Aziz Ibn Mohammad Rowas said the United Nations should take up the matter of the American military intervention in Panama.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council believes in the principle of peaceful dialogue between countries and the non-intervention in the internal affairs of any country," Rowas said.

The GCC communique said the United Nations should bolster its efforts for direct peace talks between the Gulf war belligerents and supported Arab League efforts to end the factional fighting in Lebanon.

The Gulf leaders declared support for the intifada, the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The communique did not mention specifically the Gulf states' own relations with Iran, bruised

by the 8-year Gulf war that ended in a ceasefire in August 1988.

But relations with Iran were a key summit topic.

Rowas, noting that Iran was a neighbour and fellow Islamic country, said "all hands of friendship will be extended to it."

The communique said the spirit of increased international cooperation should be harnessed to fight illiteracy, disease and environmental pollution.

Attending the 10th summit were host Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Sheikh Isa Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates.

Relations with Tehran were a central topic of the 10th annual GCC summit, although the communique did not specifically refer to the issue.

"This is an important subject," GCC Secretary-General Abdulla Bishara said at a news confer-

ence after the final session jointly held with Rowas.

"We have joint interests. I am sure these horizons will be better in the future," Bishara, a Kuwaiti, added.

The communiqué urged U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to pursue the stalled negotiations between Iran and Iraq.

The leaders also "called for the release of prisoners of war and their return to their countries without delay."

An estimated 100,000 prisoners are held by both sides, according to diplomats and U.N. officials. Efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure their release have only resulted in the exchange of about 400 wounded and disabled men.

Bishara said the GCC leaders stressed their commitment to a joint defence policy without going into details.

The leaders called for increased economic cooperation among member states, including a commitment to work toward a common tariff barrier.

Bishara said such a tariff could be implemented within three years. Trade talks with the European Community on the tariffs levied against the Gulf's petrochemical products are hinged on the area's tariff structure.

nighttime maritime traffic in the waterway and assure non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

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### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### 'Yemens intensifying work for unity'

SANA (R) — North and South Yemen are stepping up preparations for unification, President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas of Marxist South Yemen said in remarks published Friday. "Time is limited and requires continuous and intensified efforts," he told the North Yemeni weekly September 26 in an interview. Last month the two Yemens signed a draft unity constitution which will go before legislatures for ratification. "We should not wait until the day of declaring the united country to do everything," Attas said. "We can start with merging whatever we can merge now after completing all necessary measures."

#### King Fahd to visit Bahrain

KUWAIT (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will visit Bahrain, probably Saturday, to try to mediate in its long-simmering territorial dispute with Qatar, a Kuwaiti newspaper said. Quoting informed Gulf sources, Al Anha said King Fahd had been asked to mediate by leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) who ended a summit meeting in Oman Thursday. Bahrain and Qatar both claim the Hawar Islands and the territorial waters between the two countries which are believed to straddle important gas deposits. In April, 1986, Qatar invaded the nearby Fasht Al Dibab coral reef after Bahrain began building a coastguard station and detained 29 Bahraini workers for 17 days. Bahrain and Qatar are members of the GCC along with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

#### 7 executed in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Friday beheaded six foreigners — from Jordan, Syria and Turkey — and a Saudi national for drug smuggling and murder, the state-run media said. Five men with the same family name but of Jordanian and Syrian nationality were beheaded by the sword after Friday prayers in Arar, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying. Arar is a town on Saudi Arabia's northern border with Iraq. Saudi Arabia has executed at least 94 people, mostly foreigners this year, according to official counts. The ministry said the supreme court had sentenced the men, found guilty of drug trafficking, to die "by striking the neck of each with the sword until death." Mustafa Ouzigit of Turkey was also beheaded after being convicted of drug charges, while Saudi Mubarak Saeed Al Shahrani was executed for stabbing a man to death, Riyadh Radio said. SPA, which did not mention the condemned Saudi, quoted the ministry as warning that "the same punishment and destiny" awaits anyone caught drug trafficking.

#### 4 held after Israel snack poisoning

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israelis were hospitalised after eating a snack laced with insecticide Thursday and four Arab workers at the snack shop were picked up for questioning, police said. The two workers for the Israel Electric Company here fell ill after eating a falafel. Doctors at Hadassah Hospital said Rami Kastel was rushed to the emergency room in "serious but stable" condition and his co-worker Yitzhak Sasson was in fair condition after they were poisoned by an insecticide known here as "nerve gas." Sasson was discharged a few hours later and Kastel was admitted to a recovery unit in stable condition, doctors later said. Sasson told Israel Radio he tasted the falafel and Kastel took a bigger bite, but both threw the food away because it smelled funny. "We went back to work and then he (Kastel) told me he felt dizzy," Sasson said. "I felt something was not right." Sasson added he retrieved the falafel from the trash and raced to the hospital with Kastel. "The diagnosis is poisoning, apparently by insecticide of the organic phosphate type, or what the public calls nerve gas," Dr. Chaim Granot of Hadassah said on the radio.

#### Prague considers ties with Israel

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia's new reform government has taken the first steps toward normalising diplomatic relations with Israel after a 22-year interval, a deputy premier said Thursday. First Deputy Premier Vaclav Komarek, speaking to reporters at a briefing after a cabinet meeting, said the ministers had "discussed the preparations for negotiations over diplomatic relations with South Korea and Israel." Czechoslovakia and most other Soviet Bloc nations with the exception of Romania broke diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967. Israel and Czechoslovakia under its former hard-line Communist leadership discussed the possibility of restoring ties, but the talks last year failed to produce results. Komarek said the new government planned to resume negotiations. Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier "is to prepare concrete measures and proposals for the negotiations of this question with Israel," Komarek said without providing details.

#### U.S. rules out talks with Soviets on Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Nelson Ledsky, the U.S. State Department coordinator for Cyprus, ended a five-day visit Friday after ruling out discussions on the war-torn Mediterranean island between American and Soviet leaders.

He raised hopes that stalled negotiations between President George Vassilios, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will resume early next year.

"As a matter of principle and as a matter of practice, we do not discuss the Cyprus problem with the Soviet Union and prefer not to do so," he told reporters late Thursday after a final meeting

with Vassilios.

He was commenting on a statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze in Brussels earlier this week that he intended to raise the Cyprus problem when he meets U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III next month.

Cyprus has been divided since July 1974, when the Turkish army invaded following a short-lived, Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Turks seized the northern one-third of the island.

The United Nations declared the statelet illegal and only Turkey recognises it. An estimated 30,000 Turkish troops remain there despite U.N. Resolutions

## No freedom yet for Lebanon hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Westerners held hostage in Lebanon can look forward to cake, cards and cards this Christmas but not the freedom they desperately desire.

Eight Americans, four Britons, two Swiss and two West Germans are alive and well, fundamentalist and senior pro-Syrian militia sources told Reuters Friday.

They could not confirm the condition of the 17th missing Westerner, Italian Alberto Molinari who vanished in 1986.

"Christmas has always been a special occasion for the hostages and their captors," a pro-Iranian fundamentalist source close to the captors said.

"On that day the kidnappers cease to play the hostage-captor game. They try hard to entertain their captives. They offer them Christmas cakes, play cards on tape recorders and, at times, the guards give them greeting cards and flowers," he said.

"Of course, alcohol is not served and there are no turkeys, but the hostages usually have a special meal on Christmas Eve."

Most are held by kidnappers loyal to Tehran and affiliated to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God). The group has denied any link to hostage-taking.

The sources said many hostages would spend Christmas in new cells after being moved recently.

They said three captives, who were not identified, had been taken from Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs, an extremist hotbed, to the Syrian-held Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

They were moved last month after hundreds more Syrians poured into the suburbs in preparation for a possible thrust to oust General Michel Aoun.

"Some of the hostages were transferred to remote locations because the captors wanted to move freely and with large numbers of Syrian troops around that was not possible," one source said.

The sources said some hostages had been moved to other hideouts in the suburbs where there were fewer Syrian troops.

They said two were taken to a shell-pocked apartment building in the Mar Mikhael neighbourhood near the "green line."

The sources said the two Swiss nationals, Emmanuel Christen and Eli Eniquez, were detained at the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh near Sidon by members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), which is led by Abu Nidal.

The FRC has denied any links to the kidnapping.

The sources said many of those who masterminded the abductions had recently returned to Lebanon after being summoned to Tehran last summer. They gave no further details.

Muslim security sources said the well-trained and extremely secretive captors receive direct orders from Tehran. They described them as diehard and highly-committed.

"The guards are made up of several units. Each member of one group does not know anything about other units," one source said. "They are also replaced periodically."

"This is done for two reasons: The first is for security reasons as the less everyone knows the better. The second is that the guards will not spend a long time with one hostage and develop a weakness for him."

For some hostages this Christmas will be their fifth in captivity and prospects of freedom are still remote.

"Apparently, there is no rapprochement between the United States and Iran," said one Muslim leader who requested anonymity.

"No major developments are expected before a breakthrough in U.S.-Iranian relations."

Meanwhile the family of Irishman Brian Keenan, missing in Lebanon for more than three years, sent him Christmas greetings Friday and hoped that 1990 "will at last see your release and return home to your family in Ireland."

The letter was distributed by the Irish consulate in Beirut and published by the independent An Nahar daily in Arabic.

"At this special time of year, although you cannot be with us, you are on our minds and in our hearts. Your mother sends her love. She misses you more than words can say," the message said.

"You are also loved and missed by your sisters Brenda and Elaine; and your nieces Joanne, Cheryl, Janeen, and Ashleigh," it added.

Keenan, 39, an English-language teacher at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped in west Beirut on April 11, 1986.

There has been no word of Keenan since his abduction. No group has claimed responsibility or made any demands for his release.

Keenan, who hails from Belfast in British-ruled Northern Ireland, holds Irish and British nationality.

Besides Keenan, 17 other Westerners are missing in Lebanon — eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss and an Italian. Most are believed to be held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim militants.

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Aynsley China

Baccarat

Coalport China

D. Porthault

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### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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ZARQA 561263

Dr. Ismael Abdul Salam 561263

Khalith pharmacy 561263

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad 744685

Dr. Tawfiq Al Aqabat 642664

Dr. George Al Subouni 767571

Dr. Nabil Al Madi 653261

Firz pharmacy 661263

Ferdous Pharmacy 778336

Al Asmaa Pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh Pharmacy 623672

Al Salam Pharmacy 626730

# National News

## NMI prepares new system

ZARQA (Petra) — The National Medical Institute (NMI) has prepared a system for improving hospital services and providing services at minimum cost to the public, according to NMI Director-General Abdal Salam Al Majali.

The NMI is also in the process of unifying medical services at all hospitals and is going ahead with plans for raising qualifications of staff, Majali said Thursday during a tour of the hospitals in Zarqa region.

He said the NMI was studying the prospect of actively participating in the teaching process in order to raise the standards of training at nursing colleges and the faculties of medicine and pharmacy in Jordanian universities. The NMI aims to be the sole employer of graduates from these institutions in the Kingdom, Majali added.

Majali announced that the field



Abdal Salam Al Majali

hospital in Zarqa and the government hospital in the city would merge under a unified budget and administration. The administrations of the two hospitals will meet Wednesday to discuss the merger and to pave the ground for improved services, Majali said.

The NMI director toured the hospitals and was briefed on their operation.

The field hospital, one of the oldest in the country, was established by the Armed Forces. It has 200 beds and the Zarqa government hospital has 260 beds.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- \* The youth art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.
- \* A plastic art exhibition by Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Nakhech at the University of Jordan.
- \* An exhibition on public education at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- \* The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### ANGLICAN CHURCH

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## Labour ministers adopt cooperation measures

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of labour and social development in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have ended a two-day meeting in Amman after adopting measures designed to promote cooperation among the four in matters related to vocational training, social security and employment of workers from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen.

Summing up the deliberations and resolutions at the closing session, Minister of Labour Qaseem Obaidat said the ministers had reviewed technical committee reports on various topics on the agenda before reaching decisions.

The ministers approved a report on cooperation in vocational and technical training and on unifying curricula, programmes, terms and systems in such training.

He said that a vocational training school in Amman had been selected to provide training to vocational supervisors and instructors in the four countries.



Qaseem Obaidat

An institute for occupational safety training based in Egypt has been designated as a centre for instructing workers on safety, according to Obaidat.

He said the ministers agreed on other measures designed to promote cooperation involving workers' statistics, social security and legislation.

At the end of the meetings, Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office the Egyptian Minister of Social Development and Social Security Amal Othman. She conveyed to the prime minister a verbal message from his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sidki. Badran and Othman reviewed the outcome of the labour ministers meeting in Amman and bilateral cooperation in matters concerning ACC workers.

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 130 students of the various sections of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) will have the chance to display their talents at a public performance Saturday Dec. 23 in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The performance will take the form of a general group lesson to be given at the Royal Cultural Centre between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. The overall objective of the performance is to assess the achievements of NMC students at the end of the first term of the academic year 1989-1990.

3. Guitar students will give a short performance lasting three minutes; the guitar programme was introduced at the beginning of the current academic year.

4. Advanced violin student Lara Jammal, accompanied at the piano by Irena Vladimirova Sharpen, will perform the adagio and allegro movements of Handl's Sonata No. 3 in F Major.

5. The 27-member National Music Conservatory String Orchestra, consisting of third-year and fourth-year students,

will play pieces by Pleyel, Handel and Beethoven, as well as an arrangement by John Caponegro called "International Jingle Bells". They will be conducted by NMC Director Kifah Fakhouri.

6. The last item in the programme will be a performance by 10

between nine and 19 students whose ages and abilities are homogeneous.

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## Music students exhibit talents

Arabic music students under the direction of Yusra Armita, coordinator of the Arab music programme at the Conservatory.

Out of the Conservatory's total student body of 183 in the first term of this academic year, 131 students, ranging in age between three and 15 years, will take part in Saturday's performance; they will be watched by their fellow-students, as well as their parents, relatives and friends.

In addition to giving music instruction to its student body, the Conservatory is currently conducting the following programmes:

1. A three-year training course for nine members of the Sultan's Orchestra in Oman,

2. An accordion course for beginners, especially those belonging to the Circassian community in Jordan.

3. A choir and opera singing course for beginners and advanced students of all ages.

of their training at the Conservatory, assume the responsibility of training other Ministry of Education music teachers.

The first term started Sept. 2 and ended Dec. 21. The second term will begin 1990 and continue until March 31, 1990. The Conservatory's academic year consists of three terms.

In the second term, the Conservatory will introduce the following programmes:

1. A piano course for advanced students who have achieved the equivalent of grade five in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in the United Kingdom.

2. An accordion course for beginners, especially those belonging to the Circassian community in Jordan.

3. A choir and opera singing course for beginners and advanced students of all ages.

## Jordan to establish centre for pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs plans to set up an operations room in Mecca and another in Medina for the 1990 pilgrimage season so as to coordinate all services for the pilgrims and offer them assistance during the holy rites, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir.

The ministry also plans to combine all the resources of transportation companies which took part in carrying the pilgrims in previous seasons. He said that the ministry wants to avoid all shortcomings and mismanagement of the last season and improve services for the pilgrims through a unified system to be followed by the projected company.

The company, he added, will coordinate efforts with the ministry's pilgrimage mission that handles the pilgrims' affairs and provides them with medical and other services.

Besides arranging transportation and accommodation, the Ministry of Awqaf, also helps the pilgrims from the occupied Arab lands go to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season.

The minister was speaking at a meeting of representatives of

transportation companies which took part in carrying the pilgrims in previous seasons. He said that the ministry wants to avoid all shortcomings and mismanagement of the last season and improve services for the pilgrims through a unified system to be followed by the projected company.

The company, he added, will coordinate efforts with the ministry's pilgrimage mission that handles the pilgrims' affairs and provides them with medical and other services.

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## Jordan seeks to boost ties with arid zone centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cooperation between Jordan and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands was reviewed at a meeting here between Minister of Agriculture Suliman Arabyat and the centre's director-general, Mohammad Al Khashin.

The Syria-based centre, founded in 1968, provides assistance to Arab countries in increasing food production and producing improved wheat and barley.

Arabyat also discussed agricultural issues at a separate meeting with the Syrian ambassador to Jordan. Recommendations and resolutions by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee on agriculture and the initiation of joint projects were reviewed by the two sides, according to Petra.

Hourani said the PLO rejects such suggestions and insists on a full-fledged role right from the beginning of the dialogue.

"We want a full role in all stages of the peace process, starting from the very beginning," he said.

Areos said Thursday he thought he was Baker and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid seemed to be approaching an agreement when they met last month in New York. PLO officials have said that the organisation would not be obliged to accept the outcome of the tripartite meeting or any agreement if it contravened its stipulations.

"It is true we have accepted an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, but our dealing with Baker's plan will only be in accordance with our terms for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," Hourani said.

## U.S. police control Panama

(Continued from page 1)

Up to 5,000 people were made homeless by the U.S. attack on Noriega's military headquarters.

Many walked to a U.S.-owned high school, carrying everything they could into the makeshift camp.

The U.S. southern command said 20 U.S. servicemen had died since the invasion began.

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## Israel's bankrupt policies

THE current consensus in Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv, whose three foreign ministers are expected to meet in the U.S. next month, is that the peace process in the Middle East is once again bogged down. Ostensibly the search for peace in the Middle East is stalled over differences about the composition of the Palestinian delegation that is supposed to enter into dialogue with the Israeli government on the election formula and over an agenda for such talks. As a matter of fact the real reason why this latest attempt to get the peace process in the Middle East in motion has fizzled out is the same reason why all other previous initiatives or plans had failed, whether they were American-originated, European-formulated or internationally-sponsored. The simple explanation for all previous stillborn peace proposals is that Israel has no intention whatsoever to yield control over Arab territories to the Arab side in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. How else can the world explain the repeated abortions of all attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts, including its Palestinian dimension, at the hands of Tel Aviv by one tactic or another.

Israel is of course a master player when it comes to exploitation of international tension spots. With the eyes of the powers of the world focused more than ever on the events that are taking place in Eastern Europe and Washington flexing its muscles in Latin America and getting preoccupied with settling scores with its enemies in the wake of its entente with the Soviet Union, it has become easier than ever for Tel Aviv to divert attention from the Middle East to other regions of the world. Yet as Machiavellianly successful such Israeli tactics might be, they remain short-sighted. To begin with, the Arab World is consolidating its ranks through the creation of constellations of Arab states united on a more solid basis than ever. The emerging Arab groupings have both military and political implications that Israel would need to reckon with in due course even if it succeeds in temporarily shifting international attention from the Arab-Israeli conflicts to other regions of the world. As far as Jordan is concerned, Tel Aviv would be better advised to realise that it is no longer alone to confront the various Israeli designs and conspiracies. Being a founder member of the Arab Cooperation Council, which comprises also Iraq, Egypt and Yemen, Israel will have to answer not only to Jordan but also to all these Arab countries, both politically and militarily, if it pursues bankrupt policies such as "Jordan is Palestine," or entertains policies of aggression against it in a direct or indirect manner.

Thus while Israel may rejoice in derailing the peace process in the Middle East every time an initiative sprouts, the future may not be as bright or favourable to it as the past. And exploiting international preoccupation with events in Eastern Europe or elsewhere in Latin America will no longer serve the long-term interests of the Israeli people.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday urged Parliament to give the new government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran a vote of confidence in view of its policy statement and its programmes, which it seems determined to carry out. The policy statement contained a favourable response to all the demands made by the deputies and the public, and contained pledges that the government will pursue all efforts to ensure public freedoms and carry out an economic reform programme to stimulate the national economy, the paper noted. It said that the government should be given the chance to prove its stand and carry on the reforms. Indeed, the policy statement of the new government has drawn public support and deep satisfaction, a sign that the future will carry good and fruitful results of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in the Kingdom, the paper added. It said that since the government is committed to carry out its programmes which initially won Parliament's approval, and since the policy statement contained a pledge that the public demands will be met, then it is only fair on the part of Parliament to give the government a chance to deal with the social and economic situation and execute a programme designed to serve the national interest.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily advocates the cause of a 47 men and women teachers who have been retired at an early age and calls on the Ministry of Education to re-examine their cases. Sabah Abdul Samad says that the Ministry of Education retired the teachers recently on the ground that they took sick leaves during October of 1989, and the retirement will take effect as of January 1990. The writer says that the retired group are under 50 years of age, and are still able to carry out their duty as best as possible and better than their colleagues in some cases. The Ministry of Education did not take into consideration that these teachers carried reports that they are well and fit for work following a period of medical treatment, and took a hasty decision to retire them, the writer notes. Since these teachers are not disabled, and since they can carry out their work, thanks to advanced medical techniques, then it is only fair that they be returned to their jobs until they are actually in their sixties, the writer demands. He urged Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan to rescind the earlier decision and allow the 47 teachers the chance to return to their service.

Al Dustour daily turned its attention to the Jordanian Palestinian relationship in the light of the latest talks held in Amman between the two sides. The paper described this relationship as unique, and the two peoples of Palestine and Jordan as twins with common aspirations and destiny. The paper referred to statements by PLO leader Yasser Arafat in which he attached great importance to the continued consultations with the Jordanian leadership, and the need to maintain the highest level of coordination.

By Dan Petreanu

The following article appeared in Dec. 15 issue of the Israeli newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post*

THIS WEEK, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was widely perceived to have made a serious gaffe by merely admitting that he expressed interest in the PLO position on U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan. Arens and other Likud leaders also warned that if, during the forthcoming meeting of Israeli Egyptian and American foreign ministers in Washington, it emerges that the PLO is unacceptably involved in the current peace process, Israel will abandon it altogether and seek "other venues."

This week too, the PLO came closer than ever before — perhaps as close as it will ever come — to adopting a position acceptable to parts of the Israeli mainstream. This happened when Hani Al Hassan, a top PLO official and close associate of Yasser Arafat, told a London audience that the organisation "has no objection to mutually agreed border modifications (in the Green Line), insofar as they may be necessary for genuine Israeli security concerns and needs."

The Israeli left, which has supported negotiations with the PLO since Arafat recognised Israel a year ago, seized upon the statement as proof that, in the words of the Citizens Rights Movement's Dedi Zucker, "We can grasp the olive branch, if we only want to." Zucker pointed out that the past few months have seen a dozen other indications" — by senior PLO officials such as

By Ignacio Klich

COLOMBIAN interest in halting Israeli involvement with the drug barons appears to have been behind the detention in Bogota of two Israeli reserve officers and the arrest warrant issued against a couple of others on charges of conspiracy.

According to the Security Directorate (DAS), Colombia's investigative police, the two detained Israelis, Gil Ahav and Alon Shoshi, who were both subsequently released, worked for the Israeli firm Hod Hahanit. Hod Hahanit president Yair Klein, however, denies this. Ahav and Shoshi were detained on Aug. 8 and found in possession of explosives and detonators; their explanation — being engaged in the war for the Colombian armed forces — was disclaimed by the military authorities. For their part, Israeli spokesmen have remained tight-lipped — an indication, perhaps, of discreet negotiations to win the pair's release. One spokesman said comment could only be expected if the detainees had been in active service. This not being the case, he added that "we can't control what every Israeli citizen does in civilian life."

Who's behind the death squads?

Following the appointment of a Colombian magistrate to investigate the allegations of British and Israeli involvement in training the cocaine cartels' death squads, known as sicarios, as well as Patriotic Union (UP) leader Bernardo Jaramillo's request to the justice and defence ministers to seek the extradition of Klein, an arrest warrant was issued against Hod Hahanit's president and his friend Arich Afek. Jaramillo believes that Klein could throw light on the connivance of elements of the armed forces, police and DAS in the sicario-perpetrated massacres of peasants in Uraba, Cordoba and Segovia last year.

The UP leader's suspicions are supported by the fact that before the drug barons became heavy investors in real estate the Colombian military sought to counter guerrilla activities with the creation of civilian parliamentary groups. Eventually, the drug barons came to fund and upgrade the weaponry of some of these so-called self defence groups, turning them into veritable death squads with links to the armed forces. Not surprisingly, Defence Minister Oscar Botero told a Colombian congressional panel that contacts between foreigners in the drug barons' pay and some military officers had already resulted in the removal of a garrison chief in the Magdalena Medio area, the heartland of death squad activities, as well as the police head of Cundinamarca department.

The head of DAS, General Miguel Maza Marquez, whose allegations prompted the judicial enquiry in the first place, told the Colombian Congress that Hod Hahanit was initially interested in being hired to assist in anti-guerrilla warfare but dropped out after receiving a higher bid to train sicarios. Maza's statement is partly supported by Klein and

## PLO's assault of moderation

Bassam Abu Sharif, Abu Iyad, Khaled Al Hassan (Hani's brother) and others — that the PLO has seriously moderated its positions."

Is all this relevant, however, when the Israeli government steadfastly maintains that the PLO has no role in the diplomatic process? Likud leaders insist that the Israeli diplomatic initiative, notably the proposed elections in the territories, were intended precisely to create an alternative leadership to the PLO. By definition, therefore, the PLO cannot be a part of this process, they insist.

And yet, the Likud knows that without PLO approval, and probably an indirect PLO role, they will not get very far in implementing their initiative. Arens made this clear this week, when he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that he had asked the U.S. secretary of state about the PLO's position to his five-point plan. Likud members also, by and large, have no illusions regarding the outcome of the elections — if they are ever held. In the best-case scenario, it will be candidates allied with the PLO — as opposed to the radicals or the Islamic fundamentalists — who may be necessary for genuine Israeli security concerns and needs."

"Why do you pretend that the Egyptian response is not tied to the PLO?" demanded Labour's Uzi Baran of Arens. "Do not lead a hand to this insult to our intelligence."

For two decades, the Likud's answer to this was that "the PLO's hands are stained with blood." This argument, however, is easily dismantled: your enemy isn't usually pleasant company, but you are only harming yourself if you deny the chance of making

peace with him.

Slowly but surely, the Likud has shifted to a much more compelling and practical argument: talks with the PLO cannot possibly be fruitful, because the PLO insists on an independent Palestinian state, which is something Israel cannot grant. Two weeks ago, prime Minister Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee just this, adding: "I will talk to the devil himself, but not to the PLO."

There is another Likud position, one not shared by all its members, but expressed (in confidence) by many: the PLO's concessions are positive developments — and the result of the Likud's hard line. "We have driven them to the latest concession on border modifications," said one source.

A prerequisite of this logic, however, is that the PLO's concessions must never be recognised, in order to drive them to yet more concessions. The fear of many in Israel's "peace camp" is that the Israeli right will thus miss the optimal point for "rewarding" the PLO — the point after which the upward trend towards moderation becomes neutralised and eventually overshadowed by the downward spiral caused by frustration.

Shimini MK Avraham Poraz fears that "if the PLO — which needs desperately to be able to point to diplomatic progress as a reward for the Palestinians' sacrifices in the intifada — consistently fails to gain recognition of its concessions, the results will be very unfortunate for us. The pragmatists in the PLO will be weakened, and the Islamic fundamentalists will be strengthened on the Palestinian street."

What, then, is the optimal

point? Hasn't the PLO reached it with the statements by Al Hasan, which virtually bring the PLO in line with the Labour Party's idea of territorial "compromise"? Labour — whose leader, Shimon Peres, had no reaction to the statements — apparently believes not, despite the continuing calls by Labour doves such as Yossi Beilin and Ezer Weizman for a reversal of the party's position.

"The difference between us and the Likud is that we do not rule out the PLO as a negotiating partner under all circumstances," said a highly-placed Labour source. "If certain conditions were satisfied, then the PLO could be a partner. The problem is that we're still not sure what these conditions are. The Likud, on the other hand, totally rules out the possibility of talks with the PLO, using the tautological argument that no matter what they say or do, it's not sincere, only tactics."

Indeed, Shamir's bureau chief Yossi Akimeir reacted to the latest PLO statement by accusing the PLO of readiness "to say anything to gain entry into the peace process. It's merely tactics, intended to serve the goal of their strategy, which was and remains the destruction of Israel in stages."

Al Hassan tried to allay these fears in his speech by saying: "We know that once we sign the settlement with Israel, it constitutes mutual recognition, and we will therefore also be renouncing our right to any further struggle."

PLO sources in London said they hoped the speech would be received as "a very positive step, and perhaps a green light to negotiations."

tude towards Hod Hahanit has not had something to do with the benefits Israeli intelligence may have drawn from the company's alleged link with the cocaine cartels. Hod Hahanit could have recruited information about the drug barons' ties to Cuba, Panama and other countries (a valuable commodity in intelligence exchanges with the U.S.); their laundering activities (to particular interest in view of the detention and prosecution in the U.S. of two Israeli who deposited \$2 billion from drugs sales during the first half of 1987) in an Israeli bank, as well as of earlier reports of the Medellin cartel's use of the Rauhat Gan diamond exchange as another channel to launder funds; and Colombian guerrillas' possible use of the drugs trade to finance their operations. That this is not impossible is suggested by the record of Hod Hahanit's Colonel Amazia Shuali, in particular his stint as a Shin Bet intelligence operative.

**Extradition impossible**

Like other nations, Israel is generally reluctant to extradite its citizens, even less so to countries with which it has no bilateral agreements. No such accords exist with any Latin American states. Hence, a foreign ministry spokesman has said that Klein's extradition to Colombia is legally impossible. Such a legalistic approach, however, can hardly disguise the fact that given the importance of Israeli arms sales to Colombia, Bogota's readiness to accept Klein combat planes in payment for its coal supplies, and the alleged link between the drug barons and members of the armed forces, the last thing the Israelis would want to see is Klein embarrassing their Colombian clients. Not surprisingly, therefore, whereas Klein first said that he was ready to stand trial in Colombia if indicted, since the arrest warrant was issued he has changed tack. He is now only prepared to help should Colombian investigators care to address their queries via Interpol to the Israeli police.

More difficult for Israel to resist would be a determined Washington approach in support of the Drug Enforcement Administration's interest in interviewing Klein. If the Bush administration wanted to do so it could induce the Israelis to be more cooperative than they were during the Iran-Contra investigations. Not only has Israel an extradition agreement with the U.S., but an uncooperative attitude would be certainly impolitic. Together with earlier indications of negligence or worse, the lack of Israeli cooperation would be construed as a clear sign of complicity with Hod Hahanit's activities. Israeli press reports have revealed that when Klein started work for his Colombian employer he advised Israel's defence ministry but was not asked to apply for an official permit. Today, however, the ministry claims that Klein's failure to do so constituted a breach of the 1986 regulations on the export of military expertise, and it is on this basis that police investigators say he may still be liable to prosecution — Middle East International, London.

Dr. Matti Steinberg, an expert on the PLO presently at Princeton University, agrees that the wording is unprecedented, but notes that it must be seen as part of a process calculated to preserve the PLO's current role in the peace process. The strategy has created a "no-lose" situation for the organisation, he reasons.

If the present course continues, with Egypt in effect representing the PLO in preparations towards elections which the PLO expects to win, then the PLO will be satisfied, he says. On the other hand, if Israel walks out because of the PLO role, then "the onus will fall completely on Israel, and the PLO will have gained as well."

"They are telling the Americans: 'Look how far we're willing to make concessions, even before the negotiations have begun.'"

The Likud reasons that even if the walk-out from the peace process led the Labour Party to bolt the government a move long planned by Peres, but delayed for the past month by the Likud's agreement to the Baker proposals and to the Washington meeting of foreign ministers — they have little to fear. If elections resulted, Labour would be presented as the advocate of talks with the PLO — or, if the fall came over a substantive issue relating to the modalities of the elections — the would-be legitimiser of Arab claims to Jerusalem.

The PLO's strategy of "addressing the people" will then be put to the test, and the result will show whether the Israeli population is as wary of the PLO as are its leaders.

## LETTERS

### Thanks

To the Editor:

PLEASE convey the thanks of all drivers to the traffic department for removing the traffic lights at La Brioche intersection in Jabal Hussein. Now we can go back to having all the fun and accidents as before.

Mazen Dajani

## OPEN FORUM

### Christmas message

CHRISTMAS is with us once again and it also signals the beginning of the third year of the intifada in Palestine. Christmas with all its emphasis on joy, peace and good this year brings us the horrifying statistics for the two years of the intifada. A total of 613 able bodied Palestinians were killed, among them were 145 children. Women were killed while hanging out the washing; children while peeing fearfully from a doorway; old men when crossing a road peacefully. Yet, we still find the voice with which to sing "Joy to the World".

What other effects has the intifada had on us besides the killings? We know them of course. The beatings, the harassment, the house searches, the destruction of homes and perhaps the worst of all the effect on education. Where does the record stand at present? For the year 1987-1988, 300,000 were kept children off schools. Secondary level students attended school for 12 days only. Preparatory level students attended school for 15 days only. Elementary level school children attended school for 20 days only. And that is not all. More than 18,000 university and college students did not attend at all. With the present system prevailing in the occupied territories there has been absolutely no opportunity for the youngsters to meet for sport, games, cultural activities, folklore entertainment. Nothing. So where are these young people when they should be in school? Where is this 40 per cent of the population during school hours? Isn't it obvious?

If we all think back to our childhood I think most of us would say that the age when we were most hungry for knowledge was between the 10 and 15. And yet this age group got 15 days of schooling for the entire year. Official statistics show that 120,000 children between the ages of 8-10 are illiterate. This is not because they don't want to learn but because the schools are closed. So many children are selling chewing gum at the traffic lights to fill in the long days and to get some money. This is child labour and is a total disgrace. There is one place children should be during the day time and that is school. This is their absolute right, yet the children of the occupied territories are being denied this. This is an offence against all the guidelines of human rights — and yet it continues. Children being punished in order to bring the adults to heel.

This situation affects not only Palestinian Arabs but the Jewish population as well. So many of them want peace. So many of the Jewish population are in the Peace Now Movement and crave for a peaceful life. Their children as well as the Arab children are growing up in an atmosphere of fear, hate and violence. What future are they of them being guaranteed? All this is against international law but — it goes on — and on.

Yet if we look further ahead we can see that all is not black. There are glimmers of hope. The Pope met Gorbachev and gave him a statue of Jesus and his wife a rosary! Impossible — yet it happened. The Berlin wall is crumbling down and all the injustice stands for seems to be crumbling too. Governments are at last listening to their people. Poland has a Catholic Prime Minister and Dubcek is emerging again in Czechoslovakia. A softening, a springtime, a weariness with war and tension is being manifested all over Eastern Europe. People have the desire to sing again, to strum, to chat, to laugh and most of all to live! South Africa is moving slowly but surely in the direction of human values.

So what about Palestine? Are all the international bodies that deal with such things, going to let it grind its unhappy way through another year with no sign of hope for the people of that land?

What is the real message of Christmas? Surely a call for return to the values of justice. A look at human rights. To listen to the cry of the oppressed people of the occupied lands and to join with them more towards that peace with Christ's coming into our world — a little bit nearer to these values in Palestine, we will at least be able to say that we have needed something of Christ's Christmas message — Peace and good will to ALL.

Rev. M. Adel

### Lessons & Mass

At 9:30 p.m. Sunday 24-12-89 Church of St. John De La Salle Amman.



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Deux écoles Montessori à Amman

## Le choix d'une autre éducation

Non à la conception de l'écolier "tabula rasa," dont la tête vide doit être remplie par l'éducateur. Convaincues par les études de Maria Montessori, qui au début du siècle élabora une méthode d'enseignement promouvant l'auto-développement de l'enfant, deux Jordanien ont ouvert chacune une école à Amman en 1985. Deux établissements privés, où près de 150 bambins de deux ans et demi à six ans,

expérimentent une autre façon d'apprendre. A leur propre rythme et dans un cadre privilégié. Problème numéro un pour les deux directrices: le recrutement d'enseignants compétents, que l'ouverture d'un centre de formation en 1988, le premier du Proche-Orient, devrait cependant permettre de résoudre dans les années à venir.

Le professeur, âgé de 2 ans et demi à 6 ans, dans la même salle, spacée et éloignée de lumière. Certains dessinent et peignent; d'autres, sens et mouvements, s'efforcent à remplir des disques de bois de différentes tailles dans les silhouettes correspondantes d'une grande boîte. Parfois, l'un d'eux se lève, se promène, s'installe ailleurs, observe le travail d'un autre écolier, dérange trois mois avec lui, les mains dans les poches...

Chacun visque à ses occupations, sous le regard attentif de deux adultes. Au premier coup d'œil, on se croirait plutôt dans un centre aéré. Et pourtant, il s'agit bien d'une école. L'école Montessori de Shmeisani, qui accueille cette année 85 enfants. "La liberté d'activité et l'expérimentation par soi-même constituent des principes fondamentaux de la méthode Montessori," explique sa directrice, Randa Abdallah.

Des principes, qui branquent radicalement avec l'enseignement traditionnel. "Nous rejetons la conception de l'écolier "tabula rasa," autrement dit du petit d'homme vide de connaissances et hapse, que l'enseignant est chargé de remplir d'informations," renchérit Angela Sabri, responsable de l'autre école Montessori d'Amman, installée à Wadi Sir. Nous lui opposons une pédagogie, qui considère l'enfant comme un être doté de sensibilité, de moyens intellectuels qu'il ne demande qu'à expérimenter pour les maîtriser et les développer."

A l'instar du médecin italien Maria Montessori (1870-1952), qui la première formula cette théorie au début du siècle, ses deux adeptes jordaniennes estiment que le rôle de l'école consiste à créer le meilleur environnement possible pour la libre expérimentation et la satisfaction des besoins de l'enfant. "Et ce, dès son plus



Montessori: des enseignants plus attentifs que directifs.

début de l'anée, par exemple. En 4 ans, assure-t-elle, les immatures ont fait place à un véritable enthousiasme. Aujourd'hui, les parents me demandent même d'ouvrir une école primaire".

Randa Abdallah et Angela Sabri avouent qu'elles rêvent de mener à bien un tel projet, l'un et l'autre le considèrent prémature. "Mon problème numerus a resté recrutement d'enseignants compétents, ajoute la directrice de l'école de Wadi Sir. Pour être efficace, il faut avoir derrière soi des études de psychologie, connaître le matériel Montessori..."

"Aucune de ses deux assistantes, qui s'occupent avec elle de la cinquantaine d'élèves de l'école, n'a bénéficié d'une telle préparation.

S'agissant de l'école de Shmeisani, on estime que l'obstacle est presque surmonté. Affiliée au "Centre Montessori de Londres", l'école de Randa Abdallah s'est dotée

Culte solaire puis célébration de la Nativité

## Noël : fête païenne christianisée

Il y eut d'abord le culte du Soleil. Les Egyptiens, les Perses, puis les Romains célébraient chaque année en décembre le solstice d'hiver. Au IV<sup>e</sup> siècle, l'église lui substitua la célébration du jour de la naissance du Christ. Ainsi s'instaura la fête de Noël, le 25 décembre. Une fête, dont de nombreux symboles, à l'exception peut-être de celui du Père Noël, rappellent encore les origines païennes.



F.M.

quelque sorte, l'enfant Jésus. En 354, l'église chrétienne substitua en effet aux cultes païens, qu'ils souhaitaient voir disparaître, la fête de la Nativité. Jour de la "Lumière du monde", le 25 décembre devint donc la fête de Noël, celle que nous la connaissons, même si la date exacte de la naissance du Christ demeure en fait inconnue.

Le culte de l'astrre de lumière était ainsi observé par les Perses, qui honoraient le dieu Mithra à cette occasion. Tradition religieuse importée par les Romains, qui eux aussi célébraient le jour du "solis invicti", le Soleil invaincu. Avant eux, les Egyptiens avaient établi, le même jour, le rit de sacrifice d'un enfant nouveau-né, symbole de la lumière.

Une lumière, dont a hérité, en

quelque sorte, l'enfant Jésus. En 354,

l'église chrétienne substitua en effet

aux cultes païens, qu'ils souhaitaient

voir disparaître, la fête de la Nativité.

Jour de la "Lumière du monde", le 25

décembre devint donc la fête de Noël,

celle que nous la connaissons, même

si la date exacte de la naissance du

Christ demeure en fait inconnue.

Le culte de Noël est devenu peu à

peu, mais rapidement, une tradition

chrétienne, marquée principalement par

l'échange de cadeaux et la décoration

d'un sapin. Un arbre de Noël, dont

l'origine, elle aussi, remonte à une

tradition païenne christianisée.

Il y a environ 1.200 ans, un missionnaire

anglais, du nom de Winfrid,

rencontra au cours d'un voyage en

Allemagne des druides gaules qui

s'apprêtaient à sacrifier un jeune

garçon au pied d'un chêne. Sacrifice

à l'bonne de Thor, dont le

chêne était l'emblème. Seigna la

épouse, Winfrid coupa l'arbre dans

le bu au arrêté le druide. Aussitôt

apparut à sa place un sapin,

devenu depuis l'arbre du Paradis.

Autre grand symbole du 25 décembre :

le Père Noël, image de bonté et

de charité, chargé de la distribution

des cadeaux. Bien qu'il subiste plusieurs récits contradictoires sur son

origine, le plus connu et le plus

ancien, qui date des années 300,

identifie à un vrai personnage :

Saint-Nicolas, évêque de Lycie, un

petit village aujourd'hui en Turquie.

L'écclesiastique avait l'habitude,

dit-on, de distribuer pendant la nuit

des cadeaux aux enfants et aux familles

les plus pauvres. Une habitude,

qui le débarqua en fait leur

apparition beaucoup plus récemment.

Notamment celle des cartes postales.

La première fut l'œuvre de l'artiste

John Cicalo Hinsley en 1843.



aujourd'hui, la "Saint-Nicolas" se

fait dans l'Est de la France, en

Allemagne ou encore en Belgique.

Ensuite, la tradition s'est progressivement estompée avant de retrouver en Grande-Bretagne, au XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle,

sous la forme d'un bonhomme à

barbe blanche, le "Père Noël". Il

apparut dans la nuit de 24 au 25

décembre avec le Moyen-Age.

La fête de Noël est devenue peu à

peu, mais rapidement, une tradition

chrétienne, marquée principalement par

l'échange de cadeaux et la décoration

d'un sapin.

Un arbre de Noël, dont l'origine

remonte à l'Antiquité grecque.

Le sapin, symbole de l'éternité et

de la vie éternelle, fut introduit

en Angleterre au 16<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Le Père Noël a été adopté par

les Anglais au 17<sup>e</sup> siècle.

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les Anglais au 17<sup>e</sup> siècle.

## Japan forecasts slow growth rate in economy next year

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese government Friday forecast the country's economic expansion would slow next year but it will still be one of the fastest growing among major industrial nations.

The economy is forecast to grow four per cent in the 1990/91 financial year, which begins next April 1, down from the 4.6 per cent estimated for the current 1988-90 year.

"A growth rate of four per cent will reflect a very stable level of growth, a cruising speed, so to speak," said Osamu Yasuda, an official from the government's Economic Planning Agency.

"That is a rate with which we can rest reassured," he said. "I do not foresee having that high growth pattern we have seen in the past."

A four-per-cent rate would outpace the estimated rate of economic expansion for the United States in 1990 at around 2.3 per cent and West Germany at 3.2 per cent. The estimates are from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The OECD sees the average gross national product (GNP) growth for all industrial nations at

only 2.9 per cent next year.

Japan has also projected a \$78 billion trade surplus for 1990/91, down from an estimated \$81 billion this year.

An increase in imports will help trim the surplus, Yasuda said. Japan has a major objective to be a leading importing nation, he added.

Japan will achieve that,

not by restricting exports but by increasing imports."

Yasuda said Japan plans to revise its tax system to make it more favourable to importers, reduce tariffs on imported goods and further encourage imports through its trade office.

The government has also recognised the need to solve quickly its trade problem with the United States, its major trading partner.

"We will positively and aggressively deal with this as our own problem," Yasuda said.

The government sees exports rising 6.2 per cent to \$293 billion in 1990/91 from this year's esti-

mated level, and imports gaining 10.3 per cent to \$215 billion.

Private economists are less optimistic that Japan can keep its trade surplus from rising.

They said the recent weakness of the yen should push up exports next year as it makes Japanese products more competitive on world markets.

Private analysts also think the government is underestimating the potential for growth next year — some are projecting the economy will expand as much as 4.5 per cent.

The government sees the real

## Arabs get \$2b in '89 for oil, gas projects

RIYADH (R) — Arab oil producers, working to meet a projected rise in demand, received a total of \$2 billion in loans this year for oil and gas projects, a Saudi-based Arab investment group said Friday.

The Arab Petroleum Investment Corp (Apicorp) said it contributed some \$230 million of the

total, distributed in 14 loans to the 10-member Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Apicorp said in a statement its contribution was the largest annual figure in loans for petroleum and petrochemical projects since it was founded in 1975.

Yugoslavia may borrow \$4b from West

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia may receive up to \$4 billion from Western creditors before 1992 if it implements prime Minister Ante Markovic's market-oriented reforms, sources and press reports said Thursday.

Yugoslav banking sources told the Associated Press that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to grant Yugoslavia an 18-month standby credit worth \$600 million. The loan, once fully approved by IMF authorities, will be available from Jan. 1, 1990.

Yugoslavia hopes the IMF will increase the standby loan to \$900 million for a two-year period, sources close to the negotiations, which ended in Belgrade this week.

Successful negotiations with the IMF will give Yugoslavia a chance to get additional Western credits, since commercial banks and governments usually follow the fund's lead in judging whether to continue supporting a debtor country, the Vecernje

Novosti newspaper said.

It quoted vice Governor of the national bank Zarko Trojevic as saying that the World Bank, the European Community, the IMF and the European Free Trade Association already have agreed to grant Yugoslavia a total of \$3 billion in fresh credits.

Italy, Japan and Canada also have "given guarantees" to supply Yugoslavia with additional loans worth about \$1 billion in the next two years if Markovic's reform package is implemented, Vecernje Novosti said.

The fresh money primarily would be used for importing new Western technology and restructuring the country's economy and its banking system, which is being reformed in accordance with Western standards, the source said.

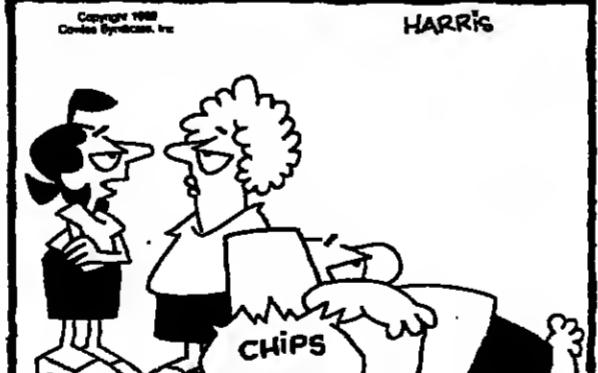
They said money was needed to prop up banks that have been backing money-losing ventures that would lose government subsidies under market-oriented reforms.

## Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Dec. 16-20	Nov. 9-13
Daily average	JD 2,090,245	JD 1,588,987
Total volume	JD 10,451,223	JD 7,944,935
Total shares	7,353,245	6,085,942
No. of contracts	5,648	4,959
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 5,850,389 (55.9%)	JD 4,306,345 (54.2%)
Financial	JD 1,510,947 (14.5%)	JD 1,784,011 (22.4%)
Service		(26.9%)
Insurance		(22.1%)
Share price index	137.2	136.1
No. of companies	66	67
Price movement (rise)	41	30
(decline)	14	24
(stable)	11	13

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Stanley cheated on me once. He was indifferent with another woman."

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MONDE

YURST

SWERKE

FISHER

Answer here: ○○○○ ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: COCOA ROBIN BYWORD LAGOON

Answer: What the accordionist's concert was — LONG DRAWN OUT

## E. Europe could work together on reforms — OECD

PARIS (Agencies) — East Europe's reforming Communist countries should follow the West's example and work with each other in their transition to free-market economies, the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

The OECD, a Paris-based grouping of the main industrial democracies, also said growth among its members is likely to be about 2.9 per cent, next year and remain steady through 1991.

In its semiannual outlook on the world economy, the OECD said events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are moving too fast to be sure how they will end up.

"One by one these countries have been committing themselves to move from the state-planned systems to more market-oriented economies, although the economic reforms currently envisaged differ greatly in scope," the agency said. "They face massive challenges along this road."

In addition, the East European countries "will not see enough in new territory: The possible transition paths from state-planned to market-oriented economy are not clearly marked."

The report said the Western countries, in their own structural reforms of the past decade, found that "mutual support and active international co-operation" helped the process along.

Correspondingly, transition to more market-oriented economies could be given impetus and direction by a common approach which involved a number of Eastern European countries," it said.

Forecasts from the OECD economists were little changed from those issued in its last study in June. Growth, in terms of real gross national product, is still seen slipping from this year's rate of 3.6 per cent, but without falling into recession.

As in June, inflation is expected to remain steady near current levels as unemployment remains contained and government

spending is projected to slow.

## Modest U.S. growth

The U.S. economy is poised to grow moderately in 1990 and 1991 but prospects for a further reduction of inflation are dim, the OECD said Thursday.

The organisation said it expected gross national product (GNP) growth of 2.3 per cent in 1990 and 2.5 per cent in 1991, after three per cent this year.

The OECD's projections place it squarely between the Bush administration, which is calling for 2.6 per cent growth in 1990, and private forecasters, who expect the world's biggest economy to expand by 1.9 per cent.

Despite the projected slow

down, the OECD said in a half-year survey that the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, would make no headway in its battle to get inflation down to zero.

It forecast consumer price inflation of 4.5 per cent in 1990, the same as this year, and a rise to 4.7 per cent in 1991.

The OECD, in common with most Wall Street economists, said the outlook depends critically on the Fed.

The central bank on Wednesday signalled its determination to keep the seven-year-old U.S. expansion alive by engineering a quarter-point drop in the federal funds rate, the cost of overnight loans among banks, to 8 1/4 per cent.

The credit easing had been widely anticipated because of mounting evidence of a slowdown in the economy — the OECD expects just 1.5 per cent growth this quarter — but the Fed's strategy was not without risk, the report said.

"Although the monetary response to any signs of a sharp slowing of activity is likely to be prompt, limiting the risk of a prolonged slowdown, such supportive action could entail stronger activity than projected and could risk a re-emergence of inflationary pressures," it said.

The OECD was also fairly gloomy about U.S. trade prospects.

The trade deficit would narrow this year to \$113 billion from \$127.2 billion in 1988 but would then get stuck at \$114 billion in 1990 and \$117 billion in 1991, it said.

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# Sports

## World Cup hosts slammed after draw

**CAGLIARI.** Sardinia (R) — World Cup hosts Italy faced a storm of criticism from a glory-seeking nation on Friday after a hard 0-0 draw with holders Argentina that fuelled doubts about their ability to score.

Six months before Italy seek a second fourth title, Thursday's soccer friendly at Cagliari capped a dismal run for manager Azeglio Vicini's side with only one goal from four matches against Argentina, England, Algeria and Brazil.

Sampdoria's Gianluca Vialli, Italy's number one striker, has not scored for his country this season and was substituted with camp in the second half.

Acid comments from Friday's newspapers highlighted the pressure Italy face from expectant fans who already have their eyes on the World Cup and do not want to be disappointed.

"Italy have disappeared," La Gazzetta Dello Sport, the top

sports daily, said in a front page headline.

"Dear Vicini, it can't go like this. Your team is slowly burning itself out. Yesterday in Cagliari it went up in smoke," it said in an editorial.

An equally lacklustre Argentina, who have now gone five games without a goal, successfully crimped Italy's style with a mixture of tight marking, solid defence and fouls in a match compared by La Republica to "a game of women's soccer."

The Argentines, among favourites with Italy to lift the World Cup, did not force goalkeeper Walter Zenga or second-half substitute Stefano Tacconi to make a single save.

But it was the absence from the Italian side of sharpness in attack and uninspired midfield play that most outraged the critics, who reserved praise only for Libero Franco Baresi.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF

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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South vulnerable, you hold:  
♦K5 ♦Q53 ♦A52 Partner opens the bidding with three no trump (25-27 points). What do you respond?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K3 ♦Q54 ♦A53 The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass  
2 NT Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K53 ♦Q52 ♦A52 The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ NT Pass 1 ♦ NT Pass  
2 ♦ NT Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:  
♦K53 ♦Q52 ♦A52 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K52 ♦Q53 ♦A53 The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ NT Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K53 ♦Q52 ♦A52 The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ NT Pass 1 ♦ NT Pass  
2 ♦ NT Pass ? What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

### THE Daily Crossword

by Victor Jambor, Jr.



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Ancient land  
5. Broad unit  
10. Space around  
14. I cannot —  
15. Light tan  
16. — Karenina  
18. Minnows  
19. Scoldings  
20. Opted for  
21. Take out  
23. Army person  
24. All in music  
25. Playgrounds  
26. Some coffers  
27. Shrewd  
28. Long time  
29. Secret groups  
37. Away  
40. Vigor  
41. Some tests  
42. Coastal flyer  
43. Theater sign  
44. Document  
45. Chief  
46. Jungle vine  
48. Pooches  
49. Con game  
51. Stay calm  
55. Needly part  
58. United closely  
59. Musical composition  
61. Iai  
62. Small quantity  
63. Liquid  
64. Measure  
65. Clinches  
66. Puzzled  
71. Pilot  
72. DOWN  
1 — lose for words  
2. Legal point  
3. Accused and Hit  
4. Coalition  
5. Pleasure ships  
6. Minimal  
7. Chong's group  
8. "Chances" —  
9. Hell into one

10. E. Ind. sailor  
11. Unity  
12. Imaginary  
13. Slacks  
16. Gambling debt  
22. Emz and Bath  
23. Johns metals  
24. Go on —  
(carouse)  
25. Merge  
26. Fibre  
28. Ultimate  
30. degree  
32. Innkeeper  
34. Put together  
35. Advocated strongly  
36. Fabry to  
38. Oceans  
39. Uplift  
42. Big bird  
44. Scholar  
47. W.I. word  
48. Awards for bravery  
49. Hell into one

50. Learned man  
51. Purpose  
52. Similar  
53. Mair of Is.  
54. Participal suits

55. Webs  
56. Eliminate  
57. Farrow  
58. Coaxed  
59. Pipe joint  
60. Fluff

**RAINBOW**  
Tel: 625155

**SPACE BALIS**  
Tel: 625155

3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

**CONCORD**  
Tel: 677420

**Shirwan, Farouq Al Fishawi in THE GUIDE (Arabic)**  
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1989  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early morning is your best time to continue looking into advanced courses of action which can lead to success. Make those pending decisions later in the day.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A financial problem has a real opportunity for you to benefit through it. You are about to meet an interesting couple from a distance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get a family member to go on a trip with you and good results will follow. Don't let financial matters confuse a relationship with a good friend.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get a woman friend to introduce you to some personalities that interest you. Keep strictly business like with a younger associate in the friend.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more willing to accept unconventional persons as your friends. Invite a dramatic couple into your home for laughs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep your contact with your friends on a strictly social basis now. Concentrate on dealing with your younger members of your family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A child is ready and willing at last to carry through with something made to do. Do something startling and dramatic to please your loved one.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Invite new acquaintances into your home on the spur of the moment. Don't get involved in your talents with an impulsive, impatient friend.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day of excitement for you

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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Location: Um Al Sommaq, near Pizza Hut.

For more details please call tel. 887238, 821662

### FURNISHED DELUXE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, sitting room, maid room, 2 bathrooms, and kitchen with central heating, and split cooling units.

Location: Jabal Amman, Third Circle.

For further details please call telephone 647100 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Rivers' Steal seals victory

MIAMI (AP) — Miami's Grant Long was about to shoot when Doc Rivers made the steal that preserved a 117-115 victory for Atlanta.

In Thursday's other national basketball association game, the Seattle Supersonics beat the Portland Trail Blazers 123-102.

Rivers left his man, slapped the ball away and dribbled into the frontcourt, where he was fouled by Sherman Douglas. Rivers hit the two free throws with seven-tenths of a second left to seal the victory against a basket by Glen Rice at the buzzer.

The Supersonics' Derrick

McKey scored 13 of his 22 points in the third quarter and keyed a 14-0 late run.

McKey scored nine points in the burst as Seattle stretched a nine-point lead into an 88-66 cushion. Dale Ellis got 11 of his 23 points as the Sonics outscored Portland 35-21, and opened a 93-72 lead after three quarters.

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**Shirwan, Farouq Al Fishawi in THE GUIDE (Arabic)**  
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Lipstick**

It isn't always an invitation to a kiss.  
Performance 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**NIJOUJI**  
Mel Gibson & Darryn Glover in Lethal Weapon "2"  
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**PLAZA**  
**COMING TO AMERICA**  
Performance 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## Singh wins confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh's minority government has won a crucial vote of confidence in parliament, crossing its first major hurdle after taking power.

Ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party abstained from voting against the motion, which sought the confidence of the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the lower house of the Indian legislature.

Speaker Rabi Ray declared the motion carried after parliament sanctioned its approval in a chorus of "Yes." No voices were raised against the motion.

Singh, 58, was sworn in Dec. 2 by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and given 30 days to prove he had the support of a majority in the Lok Sabha.

His National Front coalition won 144 seats in the 525-seat parliament in last month's general elections. Some of its members were elected from more than one seat, leaving it with an effective strength of 140 in the house.

The figure is far short of the required majority, but Singh was supported by a Hindu fundamentalist party and an assortment of left-wing groups, which together held 137 seats.

Gandhi's Congress Party won 193 seats but decided not to stake a claim to form the government.



V.P. Singh

The other seats were won by smaller parties, many of which supported Singh in Thursday's motion.

Shortly before the vote was taken, Singh said he was happy that ideologically diverse parties were offering him support.

"The delicate balance of political forces may turn out to be the most glorious occasion for our democracy, as it changes from personality politics to issue-based politics," said the mild-mannered politician whose electoral triumph ended the grip held on

the prime minister's post by Gandhi and his mother and grandfather.

"I am very happy to witness this change," he said. "It is not numbers which generate the credibility of the government. It is the policies we pursue."

There was no immediate explanation why the Congress Party abstained from voting. However, Gaodhi interrupted Siogb's speech to say he accepted the prime minister's invitation to support the government in "grappling with the nation's problems."

It was the first time the prime minister or his party has initiated a confidence vote since independent India seated its first parliament in 1952, five years after winning freedom from Britain.

While the Indian constitution does not require a vote of confidence, it also does not prohibit one. Under the present circumstances, a vote of confidence is the most demonstrative way of showing Singh's government can function.

In the past, one party always won a decisive majority of the seats in the Lok Sabha, leaving little doubt that it could muster the parliamentary majority necessary to enact legislation. But in the Nov. 22-26 elections, no party won a majority.

## Imelda Marcos asked to make plea bargain

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Lawyers for Imelda Marcos, widow of former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, have said that the U.S. and Philippine governments had asked to make a deal in which racketeering charges against her would be dropped in exchange for a guilty plea to minor charges.

Under the proposed deal, Mrs. Marcos would be given a suspended jail sentence but have to make a full disclosure of her family's assets around the world and give the Philippine government millions of dollars worth of her family's property in the United States.

But Mrs. Marcos' lawyer John Tigue said he expected the trial to go ahead because his client was adamant that she would not plead guilty to any crime committed in the Philippines.

"She will go to her grave first before she does that," he said.

Tigue said the idea for a deal originated with the U.S. and Philippine governments and not with Mrs. Marcos.

Tigue said Mrs. Marcos' defense team was still preparing for the scheduled start of her trial March 14 on charges she and her late husband siphoned more than \$100 million from the Philippines' treasury and funnelled it into the United States for the purchase of



Gustav Husak  
Party suspends Husak

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Communist Party, preparing to compete in free elections next year, is moving to purge members linked with repressive policies in the past.

Tigue said the prosecutor, assistant U.S. attorney Charles Bella, gave Mrs. Marcos until Jan. 12 to decide whether to accept the plea agreement.

The attorney also said any settlement of the criminal charges also would have to include several civil racketeering lawsuits brought by the Philippine and U.S. government against the Marcoses.

Labels, reached in his office in New York, said he could not comment on the reported plea bargain discussions.

Tigue said Mrs. Marcos' attorney in San Francisco, John J. Bartko, was her representative at the talks. Also present were Labels and representatives from the Philippine government, he said.

## 35 killed in Australia's worst road accident

SYDNEY (R) — Thirty-five people, many travelling home to spend Christmas with their families, were killed in Australia's worst road accident Friday when two tourist buses collided head on before dawn on a notoriously dangerous stretch of highway.

Bodies were torn apart as the buses, travelling at high speed in light rain, embedded themselves into each other on a two-lane section of the Pacific highway near Kempsey, 600 kilometres north of Sydney, police said.

"The two buses are sort of welded together. They've hit and the first five metres of each bus is merged into the other," said ABC radio reporter Dick Cutler.

"I don't know how many bodies are in there — there are just lots of bits," one rescue worker said.

A police spokesman said 35 might not be the final death toll as rescue workers were having problems sorting through the carnage.

Among the 41 listed injured by police were Christopher Beattie, 23, of Tauranga, New Zealand and Kendall Clare, 24, of Stevenage in Britain. The survivors, many seriously hurt, were ferried to nearby hospitals by ambulance and helicopter. They included two other Britons and one American.

"The wreck was the length of just one bus," said John Thomas, who lives nearby. "It was the worst thing you'd ever wish to see. It's a terrible mess."

"They took one person out of the back of the bus and put his legs in one bag and his arms in another."

Rescue workers erected plastic sheeting around the buses to hide them.

Police, who took 12 hours to cut the last of the bodies out of the wreckage, set up a makeshift mortuary in a nearby cheese factory. Both drivers were killed in the crash.

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's black national leader Nelson Mandela will not be released before the New Year, state radio reported Friday.

The report, quoting the government bureau for information, quashed widespread rumours Mandela would be let out this month.

Mandela, 71, chief of the African National Congress (ANC) and the most famous symbol of black anti-apartheid protest, was arrested in August 1962 and sentenced in 1964 to life in prison for plotting to overthrow white rule.

The pro-government Citizen newspaper said late January or early February was considered the most likely time for Mandela's release.

President F.W. de Klerk, who has been steering South Africa away from its racist policies since coming to power three months ago, has set the stage for Mandela's release.

Mandela and Joseph bas emerged as leading voices of the anti-apartheid movement in the 1950s. They were among more

than 150 co-defendants at a marathon treason trial lasting from 1956-61. All the accused were acquitted.

Joseph, one of the first whites banned from anti-apartheid activism, was under police restrictions for much of the 60s and 70s.

Police lifted those restrictions on her in 1982, when she was 77. But a year later she was arrested for singing and giving a clenched-fist, black power salute while attending a treason trial.

She still attends anti-apartheid rallies and is greeted with rousing cheers by black audiences.

She said both she and Mandela were excited to see one another after 28 years. Joseph had been attempting for years to visit him, but the requests were repeatedly denied.

She said Mandela has agreed to meet government leaders, including de Klerk, because "the time has come for peaceful talks between the government and the ANC."

"The ANC can't give up the

armed struggle at this stage, but he (Mandela) is very hopeful," said Joseph.

She said Mandela believes "de Klerk is a sincere person, but his limitation will be what his National Party government will allow him to do. He feels de Klerk is not a free man."

De Klerk says he wants to end discrimination and bring blacks into the national government within five years.

In other developments:

— Local newspapers reported that Mandela had been speaking by phone to his exiled ANC colleagues in Zambia. Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said in Harare, Zimbabwe, that Mandela had been in contact with top-ranking ANC leaders, the newspaper reported.

— Sisulu issued a conciliatory Christmas message to South Africans, saying "the prospects for a reasonably peaceful Christmas are greater than in the recent past."

## One year after bombing, Lockerbie remembers

LOCKERBIE (Agencies) —

Candles flickered Thursday in the bitter cold of a Scottish winter night, lit by grieving relatives to remember the 270 people killed one year ago in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Delegates to the congress are attempting to clean up the image of the Communist Party.

Eight of Mandela's most prominent

relatives made the short pilgrimage to the surrounding farms and fields where 90 bodies were recovered.

Swedish convictions

I In Uppsala, Sweden, a court Thursday convicted two men on terrorism charges and sentenced them to life imprisonment, as separate investigations continued against one, suspected of complicity in the flight 103 disaster.

The district court also convicted two other Palestinians in connection with the bombings of U.S. and Israeli targets in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985. All were acquitted of another bombing in Stockholm in 1986.

The verdict was delivered two days after Scottish police tried to question Mohammad Abu Talib, the ring-leader of the four-man group, in their investigation of the explosion of Flight 103. Abu Talib refused to answer their questions, his lawyer said.

Abu Talib was found guilty of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit serious destruction for placing a bomb outside a Copenhagen synagogue.

He also was convicted on the same charges for assembling and

transporting a bomb to Amsterdam, where it exploded outside the office of El Al airlines. He was acquitted of planting the bomb.

The court said Abu Talib was to be expelled from Sweden, where he has lived for six years, after serving his sentence.

Sjogren said that under Swedish law his client could be extradited to face trial in a foreign country, but would return to Sweden to complete his sentence.

Sjogren said Abu Talib met briefly with Scottish detectives Tuesday but objected to being questioned by them because his English was poor, and said he only would respond to questions by Swedish police.

"The meeting broke up quite soon since we could not agree on the questioning group," Sjogren told reporters.

He repeated that Abu Talib denied any involvement in the Lockerbie explosion, and said his trip to Malta which had aroused suspicions was an unrelated business trip.



## Odds on Noriega's capture

LAS VEGAS (R) — A Las Vegas oddsman offered 1-3 odds Thursday on posted Panamanian leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega being captured before Christmas day. The odds, set by Art Manters, vice president of the Las Vegas Hilton Race and Sports Superbook, mean punters would have to pay out \$1 to win \$1. For Noriega's capture after Christmas Day Manters is offering odds of 3-1 — meaning punters would spend only \$1 to win \$1. Hotel officials said the odds shortened when the White House offered a reward of \$1 million for information leading to the capture of Noriega, wanted by the United States on drug charges. Casinos in the gambling city of Las Vegas cannot legally take bets on when and if Noriega will be captured but the odds are used for countless private bets.

## Red Tape snarls honeymoon

TUSTIN, California (AP) — A newlywed couple was forced to take a longer honeymoon than they wanted when immigration officials refused to allow the French bride back into the United States from Mexico. Christopher and Christine Molenda made an impromptu decision to take a romantic sojourn in Mexico after their wedding last Saturday. Mrs. Molenda, who was on a six-month visa in the United States, had left the visa in the hands of an attorney who was handling her application for citizenship. So she took along a photocopy. But when the couple tried to return across the border Monday, a U.S. immigration official refused to accept the copy. It was only by dint of a diligent friend and sympathetic legislators that the Molendas were able to return to their California home Wednesday and avoid Mrs. Molenda's deportation to France.

Brazuska, attempting to harness growing national and separatist feeling in the once-independent republic, supported the break with the Soviet party and a 1921 party congress formally ruled out any factions.

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